

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A linear guide device comprising:

a guide rail extending in an axial direction and having a first raceway groove extending in the axial direction; [[,]] and

a slider having a second raceway groove opposed to said first raceway groove of said guide rail and being supported by said guide rail in such a way as to be able to move along the axial direction through rolling of a ~~large number~~ plurality of rolling elements inserted between said first and second raceway grooves,

~~wherein at least one of said first raceway groove of said guide rail and said second raceway groove of said slider is formed by rolling, and~~

wherein a depth D_g of said first or second raceway groove, ~~which is formed by rolling,~~ is set so that a ball diameter ratio (D_g/D_w) obtained by dividing the depth D_g by a diameter D_w of each of said rolling elements ranges from 0.26 to 0.45.

2. (Currently Amended) The linear guide device according to claim 1, wherein a surface of at least one of the guide rail and the slider whose raceway groove is ~~formed by rolling~~ set to said ball diameter ratio is subjected to removal of a decarburized layer.

3. (Withdrawn) A method of designing at least one of raceway grooves of a guide rail and a slider of a linear guide device, which is to be formed by rolling by using a rotary die having a projection-shaped working portion, whose shape is matched to a shape of the raceway groove on which rolling elements roll, the method comprising:

setting a depth of the raceway groove to be rolled, so as to have a value determined by allowing for an error in shape of the raceway groove, which is caused by the rolling.

4. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 3, wherein a depth D_g of the raceway groove to be rolled is set so that a ball diameter ratio (D_g/D_w) obtained by dividing the depth D_g by a diameter D_w of each of said rolling elements ranges from 0.26 to 0.45.

5. (Withdrawn) A method for forming at least one of raceway grooves of a guide rail and a slider of a linear guide device, the method comprising:

preparing at least one rotary dies including a projection-shaped working portion, whose shape is matched to a shape of the raceway groove on which rolling elements roll; and

rolling the raceway groove on a blank material of at least one of the guide rail and slider having the raceway groove to be rolled by the rotary dies, so that a ball diameter ratio (D_g/D_w) obtained by dividing a depth D_g of said raceway groove, which is formed by rolling, by a diameter D_w of each of said rolling elements ranges from 0.26 to 0.45.

6. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

removing a decarburized layer from a surface of at least one of the guide rail and the slider which has the raceway groove to be rolled.

7. (New) The linear guide device according to claim 1, wherein said first or second raceway groove is shaped as a Gothic arch in cross section.